

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are editorially amended to be recited as method claims. No new matter has been added. In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 1-7 for further examination and to advance prosecution, and which are drawn to a method of treating or preventing arthritis. With regard to the species election of the compound of formula I, Applicants provisionally elect the compound recited in claim 5 for further examination and to advance prosecution. Claims 1-10 are generic, and Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of any non-elected claims and consideration of additional species, should any generic claim and/or species be found allowable. Applicants further do not necessarily concede the correctness of the analysis regarding the lack of unity of invention and Yuan et al. (U.S. 6,552,071).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request prompt and favorable examination. If any questions arise regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative listed below.



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Respectfully submitted,

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